

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information service search support apparatus comprising:

5 a temporary search unit configured to, when receiving from an agent a search request to search for a desired information service from a plurality of information services existing on a network, search a registry in which said plurality of information services are registered in such a manner that said
10 plurality of information services correspond to information items and item values corresponding to the contents of each service; and

search condition item extracting means for extracting at least one of an information item related
15 to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit and a value of the information item, from the registry and notifying the agent of at least of the information item extracted and the value extracted, together with the result of the search made by the
20 temporary search unit.

2. The information service search support apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the search condition item extracting means classifies, by common category, the information item names and/or item values
25 related to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit and notifies the agent of the result.

3. The information service search support apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the search condition item extracting means uses ontology trees to classify, by common category, the information item names and/or item values related to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit.

4. The information service search support apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the search condition item extracting means classifies, by the frequency of appearance, the information item names and/or item values classified by category and notifies the agent of the result.

5. The information service search support apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the search condition item extracting means determines the qualification as a search condition item of each of the information item names and/or item values classified by the frequency of appearance for a search condition, on the basis of its frequency of appearance and notifies the agent of the result.

6. An information service search apparatus for searching for a desired information service from a plurality of information services existing on a network, comprising:

an information service search support section; and
a registry in which said plurality of information services are registered in such a manner that said

plurality of information services correspond to
information items and item values corresponding to
the contents of each service, wherein

the information service search support section
5 includes

a temporary search unit configured to, when
receiving from an agent a search request to search for
the desired information service, search the registry;
and

10 search condition item extracting means for
extracting at least one of an information item related
to the information service retrieved by the temporary
search unit and a value of the information item, from
the registry and notifying the agent of at least of the
15 information item extracted and the value extracted,
together with the result of the search made by the
temporary search unit.

7. The information service search apparatus
according to claim 6, wherein the search condition item
20 extracting means classifies, by common category, the
information item names and/or item values related to
the information service retrieved by the temporary
search unit and notifies the agent of the result.

8. The information service search apparatus
25 according to claim 7, wherein the search condition item
extracting means uses ontology trees to classify, by
common category, the information item names and/or item

values related to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit.

9. The information service search apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the search condition
5 item extracting means classifies, by the frequency of appearance, the information item names and/or item values classified by category and notifies the agent of the result.

10. The information service search apparatus
10 according to claim 9, wherein the search condition item extracting means determines the qualification as a search condition item of each of the information item names and/or item values classified by the frequency of appearance for a search condition, on the basis of its
15 frequency of appearance and notifies the agent of the result.

11. An information service search method of searching for a desired information service from a plurality of information services existing on
20 a network, comprising:

a first step of, when receiving from an agent a search request to search for the desired information service, searching, on the basis of the search request, a registry in which said plurality of information
25 services are registered in such a manner that said plurality of information services correspond to information items and item values corresponding to

the contents of each service; and

a second step of extracting at least one of
an information item related to the information service
retrieved in the first step and a value of the
5 information item, from the registry and notifying the
agent of at least of the information item extracted and
the value extracted, together with the result of the
search in the first step.

12. The information service search method
10 according to claim 11, wherein the second step is
a step of classifying, by common category, the item
values for the information items related to the
information service retrieved in the first step and
notifying the agent of the result.

15 13. The information service search method
according to claim 12, wherein the second step is
a step of using ontology trees to classify, by common
category, the item values for the information items
related to the information service retrieved in the
20 first step.

14. The information service search method
according to claim 12, wherein the second step includes
a third step of classifying, by the frequency of
appearance, the keywords included in the item values
25 classified by category and notifying the agent of the
result.

15. The information service search method

according to claim 14, wherein the second step is
a step of determining the qualification of each of
the keywords classified by the frequency of appearance
in the third step, on the basis of its frequency of
5 appearance and notifying the agent of the result.